

## Robert Knickrehm

Robert A. Knickrehm, 90, Groton, died Sunday, Dec. 2, 2001, at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen, from pneumonia. His funeral was held Wednesday, Dec. 5, at the First Presbyterian Church, Groton, with the Rev. Lyla Siebrecht officiating. Burial will follow in the Groton Union Cemetery under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Robert Albert Knickrehm was born July 27, 1911, to Fred and Rose (Sondy) Knickrehm at their farm home near Stratford. He attended rural school and graduated from Groton High School in 1930, where he was a band member and was also active in sports. He played both baseball and football, being captain of the football team in 1929. He survived the "Dirty Thirties" with his parents on the farm. On June 1, 1937, he married Inez



Dunker at her farm home near Stratford. They raised livestock and farmed the land that was homesteaded by his parents until they retired and moved to Groton in 1983.

Robert enjoyed participating and leading in community and civic organizations. He served as clerk of the Garden Prairie Township Board for 31 years and school board for 16 years; was a member of the South Brown Soil Conservation District for 43 years; a member of the Ferny Farmers Elevator Board for 31 years; and the Farmers Union for more than 50 years. He was a card-carrying Republican and ran for the South Dakota Legislature in 1956.

Robert served on the WEB board of directors and was one of the early pioneers of developing the rural water system for Walworth, Edmunds and Brown counties. He was a member of the Community Church in Randolph through early adulthood and became a member of the Presbyterian Church in Stratford and later in Groton. He served as an elder of his churches for 49 years.

Robert was a 50+ year member of the Conde Lodge #134, having been raised to the third degree in 1945. He was a 50+ year member of the Aberdeen Scottish Rite and the Yelduz Shrine. He belonged to the Yelduz Wrecking Crew and Jesters.

He and his wife, Inez, travelled extensively through the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe and South America. He loved family, farming, football, traveling, reading and conversation.

Survivors include his wife of 64 years, three daughters, Ann (Robert) Winegar, Walker, Minn.; Dr. Roberta (Rev. David) Olson, Brookings; Carol (Gerald) Osterman, Groton; six grandchildren, Kathi and Robert Tunheim, Kristi and Donald Wieser, Todd and Sandy Osterman, Robert and Angela Osterman, Aaron Olson and Daniel Olson; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents, one sister, Ruby Rossow; two infant granddaughters and one infant great-grandson.

Casketbearers were Robert Tunheim, Donald Wieser, Aaron Olson, Daniel Olson, Todd Osterman and Robert Osterman.

Family prefers memorials to First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Main St., Groton, SD 57445.